

25 MAR 1948

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CENTRAL

1. UK plans to remain neutral on Palestine problem--According to US Embassy London, the British Foreign Office has instructed Sir Alexander Cadogan to inform the US delegation to the UN that while the UK sympathizes with the motives of the US in attempting to avert civil war in Palestine, the UK cannot depart from its present neutral attitude in the Security Council. The Embassy believes that: (a) British officials dealing with the Palestine problem personally approve of the new US attitude; but (b) the British Cabinet and politicians are afraid that the British public would react strongly if an attempt were made to keep UK troops in Palestine, even for a short while beyond the announced period.

2. Arabs may set up provisional Palestine government at once--Secretary-General Azzam Pasha of the Arab League has informed US Charge Memminger in Damascus that the Arabs are "seriously considering" immediate establishment of a provisional government for Palestine, in order to offset the projected establishment of a Zionist state as announced by the Jewish Agency.

(CIA Comment: An Arab provisional government, if established, would undoubtedly contemplate a unitary state embracing all of Palestine.)

3. Arab Higher Committee believed willing to accept truce--A high official of the (British) Palestine Government has expressed to US Consul Macatee in Jerusalem his belief that although the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine would probably express public opposition to a truce with the Jews, it would privately be "open to reason." The UK official thus believes that the Arabs may be persuaded to accept a truce. The official added that the UN must immediately send representatives to arrange a truce if bloodshed is not to continue on a greater scale.

\*Army, Navy and State  
Department review(s)  
completed.

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**EUROPE**

4. **ITALY: Yugoslav infiltration across Adriatic--US Navy sources in the Mediterranean report the frequent landing along the Italian Adriatic coast of persons who claim to be fleeing from Yugoslavia. The Italian Navy and Carabinieri reportedly are unable to prevent coastal infiltration and smuggling of munitions.**

(CIA Comment: Such Yugoslav activity is probably designed to assist Italian Communists who are politically dominant along the Adriatic coastline from Pescara to Bari.)

5. **GREECE: AMAG proposes temporary increase in Army--AMAG Chief Griswold has requested the Department of State to authorize an immediate temporary increase of 15,000 in the overall strength of the Greek Army. The proposed increase would be for a period of six months and would permit the calling-up of 45,000 younger recruits in 3 two-month training groups. Griswold points out that the Greek Army is now totally committed, no replacements are available, and the call-up is needed to provide adequate replacements for both the army and the National Defense Corps. Griswold adds that the increase would have substantial morale value among both civilians and the military--particularly the Defense Corps where morale is poor, in part because of resentment that younger men without family attachments have not been called up.**

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